OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

**Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.**
**For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/austria**

**For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology**

# 1 2021

## Summary

Austria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Implemented in 2021, Austria's new hate crime recording system represents a good practice in the region. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior is also a member of the civil society network "Hate Crime Kontern", which strengthens hate crime co-ordination and victim support, and co-operates directly with civil society organizations. Hate crime statistics collected by the Ministry are published online each year.

In January 2023, Austria implemented ODIHR's Diagnostic Workshop to Assess National Structures and Services for Hate Crime Victim Support.

Hate crime data collection in Austria
Support for hate crime victims in Austria
Hate crime capacity building in Austria
Austria's hate crime legislation

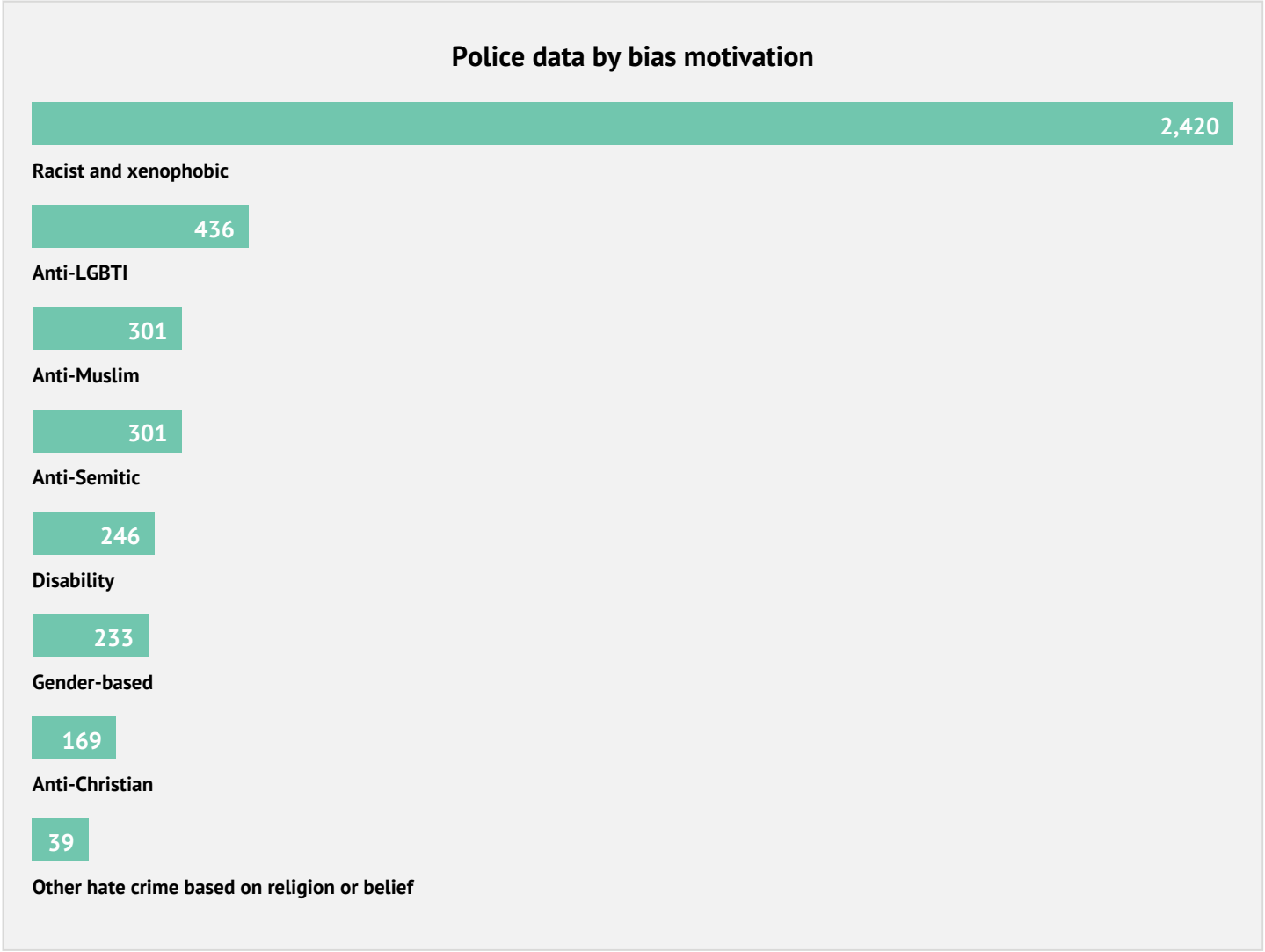
## ODIHR's Key Observation

**ODIHR recognizes Austria's long-term efforts to improve its hate crime recording and data collection mechanism, leading to a significant increase in the number of recorded and prosecuted hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that Austria's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Austria would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials, especially prosecutors, to address hate crime.**

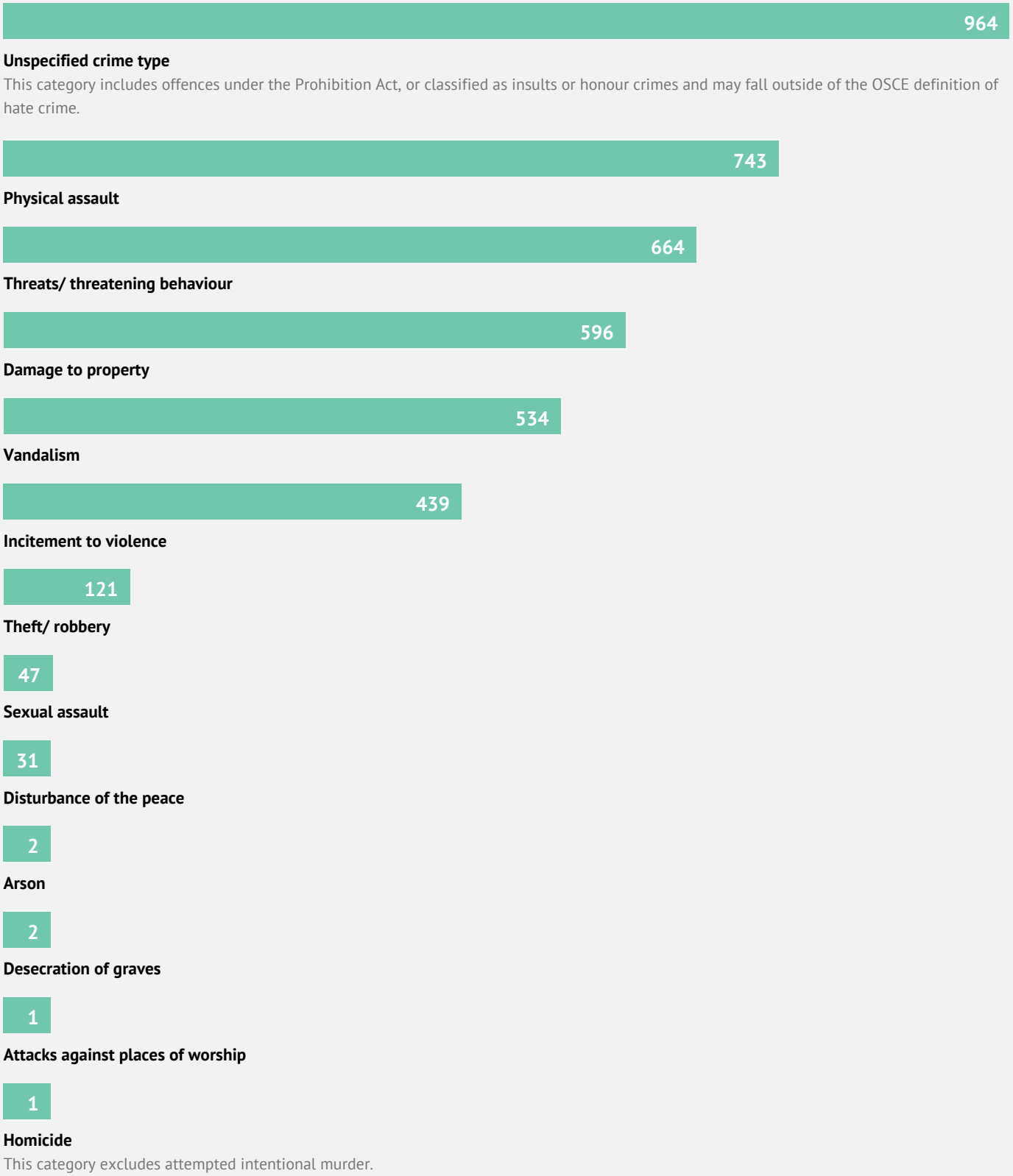
## Official Data

Police records represent the number of offences recorded as hate crimes; a total number of 6,619 cases were registered, some of which involved more than one bias motivation. Police-recorded hate crimes include 964 offences understood as "right-wing extremism" under the Prohibition Act or classified as insults or honour crimes, and may fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime. Prosecution and sentencing figures are based on the same recording methodology as police-recorded figures, and may therefore also include offences that fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime.

| Year | Hate crimes recorded by police | Prosecuted | Sentenced |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 5,464 | 4,304 | 184 |


Police data by bias motivation
2,420
Racist and xenophobic
436
Anti-LGBTI
301
Anti-Muslim
301
Anti-Semitic
246
Disability
233
Gender-based
169
Anti-Christian
39
Other hate crime based on religion or belief

## Police data by type of crime



## National Developments

Following the launch of the new electronic recording and data collection mechanism in November 2020, the **Ministry of Interior** (MoI) continued training police officers on hate crime via a three-module e-learning course delivered through the e-Campus of the **Police Training Academy** (**Sicherheitsakademie, SIAK**). As of 10 May 2021, a total of 22,788 police officers had completed the course. In addition, 200 police officers from the Federal Provinces were trained to deliver training events to front-line officers and to serve as contact points for CSOs and victim support organizations. In May 2021, an additional module was launched for prosecutors and judges.

In 2021, the **MoI** developed a factsheet on hate crime, which was translated into nine languages. Together with the Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology (Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie, IRKS), the MoI conducted a hate crime victimization survey on unreported cases via 2,325 telephone interviews. Nearly 4 per cent of respondents reported being a victim of a hate crime. The survey also found that the security perception of hate crime victims was significantly worse than that of victims of crimes committed without a bias motive. The likelihood of victims reporting hate crimes was found to be far lower compared to crimes committed without a bias motive. In June 2021, the survey results were published in a Pilot Report on "Hate Crime in Austria", which maps the improvements in hate crime recording and data collection in Austria since 2019.

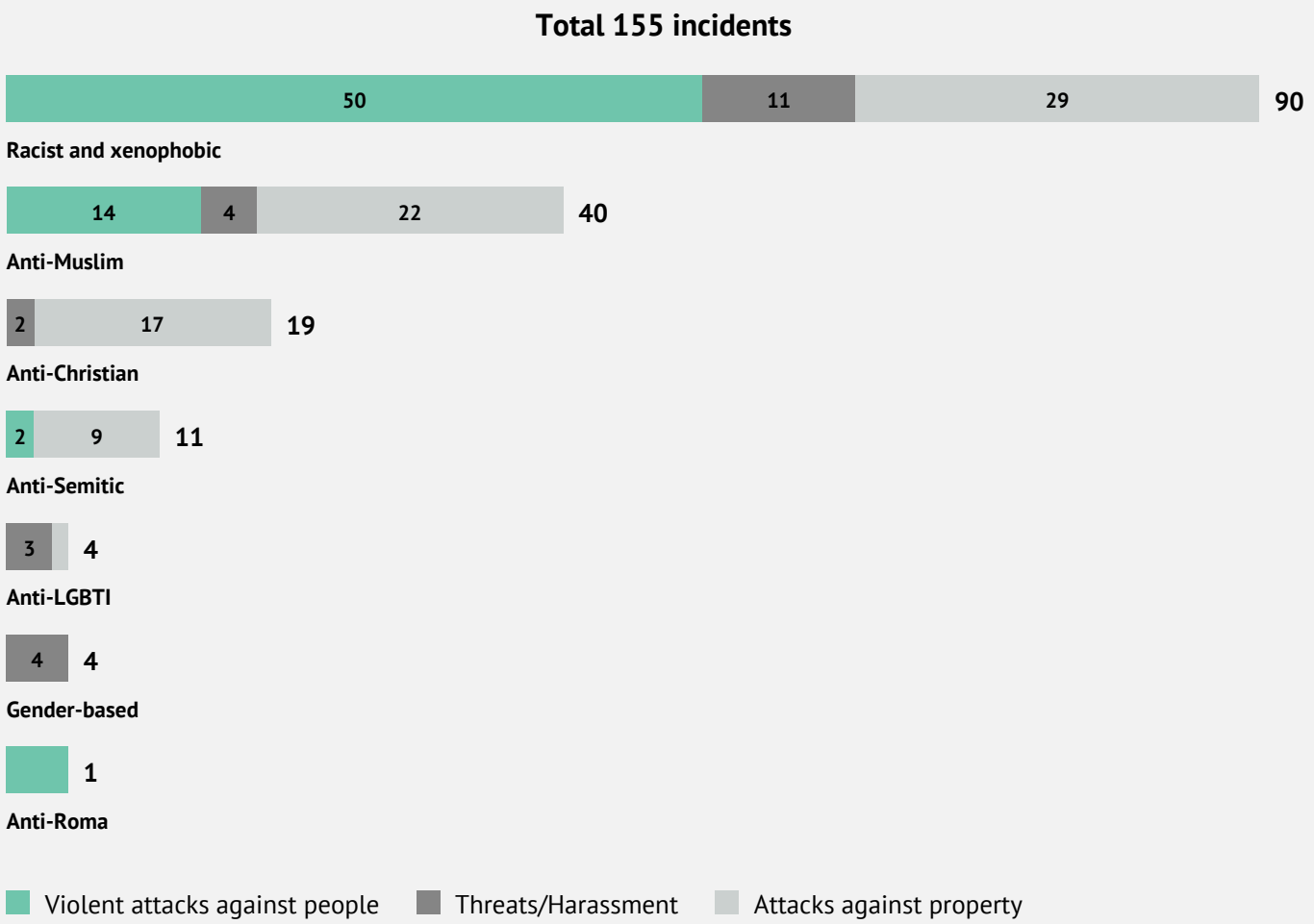
**Notable cases:**

**Case 1:** Graz, October 2021: A person in a wheelchair was hit over the head with a beer can, threatened with death ("I kill you, then you do not need a wheelchair anymore") and had their wheelchair kicked by a known perpetrator. The police registered the case as a hate crime against persons with disabilities.

**Case 2:** Vienna, May 2021: A person was repeatedly subjected to racist insults, kicked and knocked to the ground. The police registered the case as a hate crime under the categories "ethnic origin" and "skin colour".

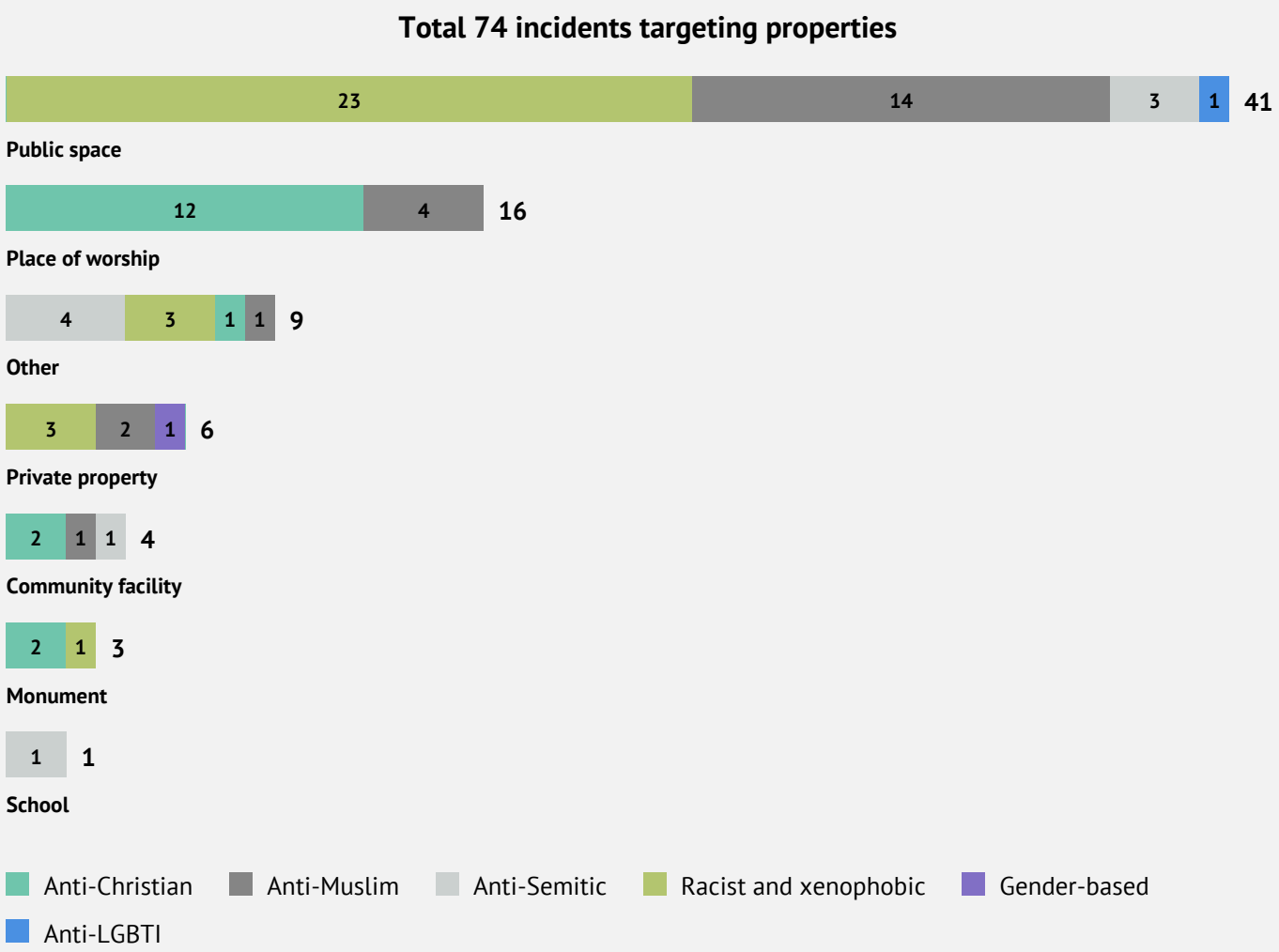
**Case 3:** Vienna, May 2021: A young female student was reading a book titled "The Jews in the Modern world" on the metro. The victim was then subjected to anti-Semitic and misogynistic threats and insults and had her hair pulled by several men. At the next stop, the victim asked two police officers for help, but was told to forget the incident as she is not Jewish. The case was extensively covered by national media networks, including the national radio. Consequently, the Viennese Police apologized and filed the case. However, as the video surveillance footage had already been deleted, the perpetrators could not be found. The case significantly strengthened public awareness of hate crime and anti-Semitism, including in Germany. See, for example, the following reports: https://wien.orf.at/stories/3107040/; https://www.juedischeallgemeine.de/juedische-welt/attacke-in-der-wiener-u-bahn/; https://www.krone.at/2424508; and https://www.rtl.de/cms/wien-19-jaehrige-studentin-antisemitischbeleidigt-weil-sie-ein-buch-ueber-juden-liest-4770023.html.

## Incidents reported by civil society

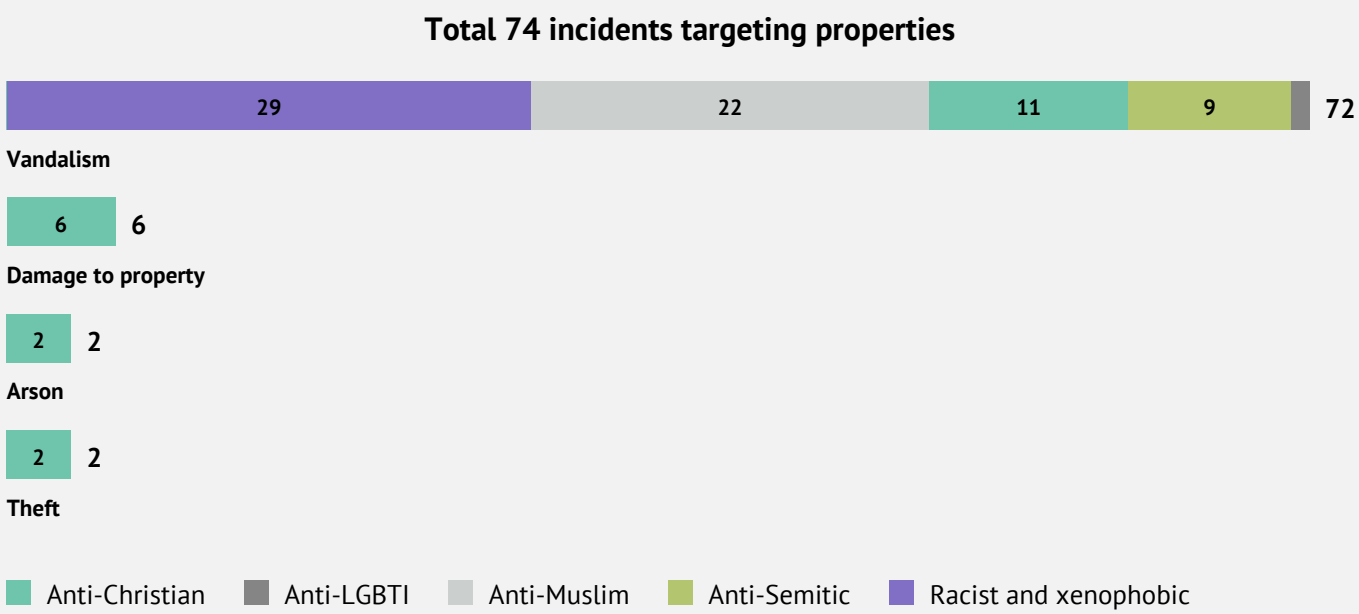



Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

## Targeted properties



## Type of property attack




View civil society incidents for Austria, 2021